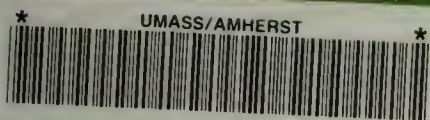


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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL 1980

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL 1980

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Through this document, the Board of Registration in Nursing complies with Section 79, Chapter 112, General Laws, which requires the Board to "make an annual report of the condition of nursing in the Commonwealth". The report covers the fiscal year period from July 1, 1979 through June 30, 1980.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

The Board of Registration in Nursing, an administrative agency within the governmental organization of the Commonwealth, is delegated the responsibility for implementation of those statutes and sections of statutes that provide legal control of nursing practice. The fundamental purpose of the Board is to safeguard the welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth who require the services of professional and practical nurses.

To fulfill its purpose, the Board has two major functions:

1. Licensure of professional and practical nurses.
2. Determination and maintenance of nursing education standards that are basic to licensure of safe practitioners through approval of nursing education programs.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Qualifications for membership are established by Section 13, Chapter 13, General Laws, as amended. Section 13 provides that the Board membership shall consist of eight members, each a resident of the Commonwealth, appointed by the Governor. One member of the Board shall be a representative of the public. Five members shall be registered nurses, each a graduate of a different approved school for nurses. At the time of appointment one registered nurse shall be on the teaching staff of a collegiate school for nurses, one shall be on the teaching staff of a diploma school for nurses, one shall be on the nursing administration staff of a duly licensed hospital, one shall be in the field of public health, and one on the teaching staff of a practical vocational school of nursing. Two members of the Board shall be licensed practical nurses. As the term of office expires, his successor shall be appointed for a term of six years, but no member shall be appointed for two consecutive terms. In making the original appointments to the present Board, the Governor appointed two members for a term of three years, three members for a term of four years, and three members for a term of six years.

Membership during the period covered by the report is outlined below:

<u>NAME OF MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTATION</u>	<u>APPOINTED</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Anna Margulies	Public Health	1977	1983
Ellen Barrett	Teaching staff of Collegiate School	1979	1985
(Ellen Barrett filled unexpired term of Mary O'Leary)			

REGISTRATION DIVISION

	<u>APPOINTED</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Teaching Staff of Collegiate School	1977	1980
Public Health Nurse	1977	1982
Licensed Practical Nurse	1977	1981
Teaching Staff of Practical School	1977	1981
Teaching Staff of Collegiate School	1977	1980
Nursing Service	1977	1980
Nursing Service	1977	1980
Licensed Practical Nurse	1977	1981
Teaching Staff Diploma School	1977	1981

All scheduled meetings during the year with a quorum being established
Minutes of each meeting are on file at Board of Registration in

During in October 1979, Anne Hargreaves was elected Chairman and
as elected Vice-Chairman.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

	<u>YEAR HIRED</u>
1. M.Ed., Executive Secretary	October 1977
2. R.N., M.S., Supervisor	August 1967
3. M.S., Supervisor	May 1973
4. M.S., Supervisor	January 1978 - Resigned June 1980
5. Investigator	September 1979

and attorney from the Attorney General Office.

CLERICAL STAFF

	<u>YEAR HIRED</u>
Chief Clerk	1944
Senior Clerk Typist	1973
Senior Clerk Typist	1966
Junior Clerk Typist	1979 - Resigned 1980
Junior Clerk Typist	1966
Junior Clerk Typist	1979
Junior Clerk Typist	1979

From July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980 the Massachusetts Board of
Nursing held twelve (12) regular meetings and two (2) special
several informal meetings of various committees. Three of
held at the Board of Registration in Nursing office at 100
, Mass., as prescribed by law. The remaining meetings followed
in previous years and were held in various sites throughout
ited during the year were Marthas Vineyard, Gloucester
ton, Holyoke, Springfield, Newburyport. An average of 50-75
open Board meetings each month.

APPOINTMENTS TO STAFF

During the year the Board appointed the following people to the Board staff:

Theodore Curle, Esq., Investigator
Carol Comperice, Senior Clerk Typist
Mary McKenzie, Junior Clerk Typist
Margaret Hardy, Junior Clerk Typist

August 1970
September 1970
August 1970
September 1970

Because of legislation passed (Mandatory Continuing Education and the Nurse in the Expanded Role) there was a need for additional help, and requests were made to fill the positions of Registrar and an additional Supervisor.

ACTION ON POLICIES AND/OR DECISIONS ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Revised and approved a letter of agreement between the Department of Public Health and the Board of Registration in Nursing governing the collection and release of data pertaining to fully licensed nurses and practical nurses.
- Rendered an opinion that the Licensed Practical Nurse is responsible for her actions as is the Registered Nurse. However, when a Registered Nurse is in fact on duty with an Licensed Practical Nurse, the Registered Nurse shall by virtue of her generic program, in which she acquired greater knowledge and skills shall be the charge professional individual.
- Rendered an opinion that at the scene of an accident the chief responsibility for medical care should go to the person with the greatest knowledge.
- Established that the test of "English Proficiency" may include but not be limited to the T.O.E.F.L. Other examinations i.e. Graduate Record, Miller Analog, Milwaukee Proficiency Examination may be used.
- Determined that "Executive Session" minutes should be open only to those that had been present during the session, and that protocols should be established with regard to reviewing the Executive Session minutes.
- Established procedures for conducting meetings.
- Established procedures to facilitate and promote the organizational functioning of the Board office.
- Adopted a policy that Canadian Nurses who have successfully passed the Canadian National Examination in English between the years 1970 and 1979 be allowed endorsement to practice professional nursing in Massachusetts without further examination.
- Adopted the definition of Licensed Practical Nurse as submitted for public hearing.
- Established a policy that non-licensed personnel should not assist in the performance of home dialysis.
- Adopted the regulation that all nurses working in the Expanded Role should be authorized by the Board as required by Chapter 846.
- Adopted a policy to accept the records of the screening committee of the Commission on Foreign Graduates as documents to be used in evaluation of foreign nurses who file applications for registration.

REVIEW OF LEGISLATION

- H146 Reintroduced legislation to clarify the power of the Board of Registration in Nursing to adopt Rules and Regulations governing nursing practice.
- S560 An act to amend the law relative to the practice of nurse midwifery which requires all deliveries by nurse midwives to be in a licensed hospital - Support
- S2008 Bill prohibiting Board of Registration in Nursing from designating any other groups as providers of programs for Continuing Education - Opposed
- H34 An act to restructure and/or reorganize the Health Boards within the Division of Registration. - Opposed

- H2113 A Bill to increase the compensation for members of the Board of Registration in Nursing - Supported
- H3199 A Bill to change composition of the Board of Registration in Nursing to Thirteen members, 7 consumers, 4 Registered Nurses, 2 Licensed Practical Nurses. Would strike the "practice" positions (public health nurse members) Opposed.

The Board of Registration in Nursing also held established public hearing dates and promulgated rules and regulations relative to:

1. Certification requirements from Nurses Educated in Foreign Countries - September 25, 1979
2. Chapter 846 - The Nurse in the Expanded Role - September 25, 1979
3. Continuing Education - September 24, 25, 27, 28, 1979.
4. Definition of Licensed Practical Nurse - October 2, 1979

The actions of the Board of Registration in Nursing continues to reflect their interest and support of legislation to improve nursing education and nursing services to the people of Massachusetts.

IN ADDITION THE BOARD HAS:

- Reviewed nursing education programs and approved/disapproved same.
- Explored and clarified the position of the Board of Registration in Nursing with regard to the handicapped student.
- Interviewed and selected finalists for the positions of Supervisor and Investigators
- Established a critical care and emergency room/ambulatory care committee
- Investigated the validity of the July State Board Test Pool Examination
- Accepted the reports of the task force committees to revise the Rules and Regulations governing the Schools of Nursing.
- Explored the issue of having multiple sites for State Board Test Pool Examinations
- Investigated the role of non-professionals in the care of patients on home dialysis.
- Investigated the role of un-licensed personnel administering medications in settings other than the hospital.
- Made inquiry and reviewed material with regard to employing a professional testing service to administer the State Board Test Pool Examination.
- Established dialogue with the Podiatry Board with regard to foot care services, especially the elderly.
- Recognized the July, 1979 State Board Test Pool Examination as valid.
- Established an Advisory Committee for Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, and Psychiatric Nurse Specialist.
- Expressed concern that institutions were delegating nursing functions to non-nursing personnel.
- Reviewed the possibility of a career mobility plan developed jointly by a Licensed Practical Nurse and an Associate Degree program.
- Reviewed the legality of non-licensed personnel assisting in the performance of home dialysis.
- Dealt with the problem of confidential material being leaked out of the Board office.
- Reviewed the proposed format for the 1982 State Board Test Pool Examination.
- Established that handicapped students should be given special consideration during examinations.
- Explored issue of identification of patients in mental health facilities by use of name tags for purpose of dispensing medication.
- Approved the offering of an additional and separate psychiatric course similar to that of other generic programs.

- Invited a representative from Professional Testing Service to address the Board regarding services offered by her organization with regard to State Board Test Pool Examination.
- Denied a request by State Board Test Pool Examination applicant for extra time to copy her answers to an answer sheet.
- Established a Liaison committee with members of the Board of Medicine and the Board of Registration in Nursing.
- Set a meeting date in September for a joint meeting of Directors of Nursing Education Programs and Directors of Nursing Services to discuss issues in Nursing.

FUTURE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED:

- Review of legislation regarding course content and length of course relative to refresher courses.
- Request copies of Canadian Test Plan for study with regard to reciprocity.
- Review propriety of the use of name tags by patients in Mental Health Hospitals.
- Explore concept of nurses writing prescriptions.
- Explore issue of nurses accepting Doctors orders transmitted by others than the doctor, i.e. pharmacists etc.
- Development of Guidelines for Inactive/Active Status.
- Continue to explore the functions and effectiveness of the Central Medical Library-Bank from National Council of State Boards.
- Continue to explore possibility of multiple sites for State Board Test Pool Examination.
- Plan to hold joint meeting with nursing education and nursing service in order to assist the Board of Registration in Nursing in the interpretation and enforcement of the Nurse Practice Act.
- Continue to investigate non-license personnel performing nursing functions.
- Explore possibility of career mobility programs.
- Investigate the implications of a future "nursing shortage".
- Explore the need for additional graduate programs, especially in the state system.
- To conduct mini workshops and forums throughout the state to inform nurses and other personnel about changes in the nurse practice act and the requirements of mandatory continuing education.
- Initiation of a news letter re; activities of the Board for broad distribution.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Attended State Board Test Pool Examination.
- Conducted survey and study of state of nursing in various areas.
- Attended workshops and seminars.
- Participated in committees for revision of Registration Act and Rules of Practice and Licensed Practical Nurses.
- Served on Advisory Board of Professional Organizations.
- Served on Committee of various Professional Organizations.
- Served on Liaison Committee between State and Federal Governments.
- Acted as registrar in the preparation and administration of the State Board Test Pool Examination.

IN ADDITION THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY HAS:

- Served as chief clerk during the administration of the State Board Test Pool Examination.
- Represented the Board at various meetings, conferences and seminars.
- Conducted interviews for Registrar, Investigator and clerical personnel.
- Acted as intermediary between Board of Registration in Nursing and other Boards.
- Prepared a report of Board activities for publication.

- Prepared budget and attended meetings relative to budget.
- Prepared legislation for public hearings.
- Testified for the Board of Registration in Nursing in favor of and/or opposition to legislation.
- Answered extensive phone and written inquiries about regulations, and legislation of the nurse practice act as well as the nurse in the expanded role and continuing education.
- Held numerous conferences in collaboration with the Investigator relative to adjudicatory situations.

NURSING EDUCATION:

The Board of Registration in Nursing is the legal accrediting (approval) agency for nursing education programs preparing professional and practical nurses who are eligible for admission to the licensure procedure.

On September 30, 1979 there were a total of 9395 students enrolled in professional nursing programs leading to licensure in Massachusetts. This represents a decrease of 157 students from 1978.

There are three types of programs preparing professional nurses.

1. Schools of Nursing grant a DIPLOMA - administered by a hospital corporation.
2. Schools of Nursing grant a ASSOCIATE DEGREE - administered by a junior or community college.
3. Schools of Nursing grant a BACCALAUREATE DEGREE - administered by a senior college or university.

SCHOOLS OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING

<u>TYPE OF PROGRAM</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS</u>		
		<u>1973</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u>
Diploma	26	22	19	13
Associate Degree	20	20	20	21
Baccalaureate Degree	11	11	11	13
	<u>57</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>47</u>

GRADUATES

Diploma	1102	1106	1107	1000
Associate Degree	1007	1027	993	1016
Baccalaureate Degree	670	611	611	691
	<u>2779</u>	<u>2744</u>	<u>2711</u>	<u>2707</u>

SCHOOL CLOSURES:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE OF CLOSURE</u>
Memorial Hospital - Diploma	Worcester	1979

LETTERS OF INTENT

NONE

NEW SCHOOLS OPENED

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OPENING DATE</u>
Quincy Junior College - Associate Degree	Quincy	1979
Curry College - Baccalaureate Degree	Millis	1979
College of Our Lady of the Elms - Baccalaureate Degree	Chicopee	1979

SURVEYS OF SCHOOLS OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING:

	<u>BOARD ACTION</u>
College of Our Lady of the Elms, Baccalaureate	Initial Approval
St. Vincent's Hospital, Diploma	Full Approval
New England Diaconess Hospital, Diploma	Full Approval
Malden Hospital, Diploma	Full Approval
New England Baptist Hospital, Diploma	Full Approval
Northern Essex Community College, Day Program, A.D.	Full Approval
Northern Essex Community College, Evening Program, A.D.	Full Approval
Greenfield Community College, Associate Degree	Full Approval

PROGRESS REPORTS:

Fitchburg State College - Baccalaureate	Accepted
Boston State College - Baccalaureate	Accepted
University of Lowell - Baccalaureate	Accepted
College of Our Lady of the Elms - Baccalaureate	Accepted
Boston University - Baccalaureate	Accepted
Curry College - Baccalaureate	Accepted
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital - Diploma	Accepted
Quinsigamond Community College - Associate Degree	Accepted
Cape Cod Community College - Associate Degree	Accepted
Quincy Junior College - Associate Degree	Accepted

CLINICAL AGENCIES SURVEYED:

Lutheran Home for the Aged - Worcester	Approved
Chicopee Visiting Nurses Associate - Chicopee	Approved
Chicopee Public Health Department - Chicopee	Approved
Springfield Municipal Hospital - Springfield	Approved
Providence Hospital - Holyoke	Approved
Williamsonsett Nursing Home - Chicopee	Approved
Colonial Nursing Home - Weymouth	Approved
Brattleboro Retreat - Vermont	Approved
Knowlwood Nursing Home - Worcester	Approved

SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL NURSING:

<u>TYPE OF PROGRAM</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS</u>			<u>1980</u>
		<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>		
Vocational	23	23	23		23
Non-Vocational	9	8	8		9
Total	32	31	31		32

GRADUATES

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Vocational	747	666	673	650
Non-Vocational	391	397	367	366
Total	<u>1138</u>	<u>1063</u>	<u>1040</u>	<u>1016</u>

SCHOOL CLOSURES:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE OF CLOSURE</u>
Leominster Vocational School	Leominster	August 1979

SURVEYS OF SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL NURSING

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>BOARD ACTION</u>
Shepard Gill	Full Approval

CURRICULUM REVISION

Southeastern Regional Vocational School	Legislative
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N.P. Three Licensed Practical Nurse Schools of Nursing are currently part of a pilot program to determine the feasibility of shortening the Licensed Practical Nurse program to 12 months in duration. These programs will be reviewed after promulgation and adoption of revised rules governing Schools of Nursing.

<u>PROPOSAL REPORTS</u>	<u>BOARD ACTION</u>
Quincy Vocational School	Approved
Essex Agricultural School	Approved
Smith Vocational School	Approved
Bristol-Plymouth Vocational School	Approved
Department of Health and Hospitals	Approved

On September 30, 1979 there were 1016 students enrolled in Licensed Practical Nurse programs. This indicates a decrease of 59 students enrolled in 1978.

Total number of students in both professional and practical schools of nursing:

Registered Nurse	9,305
Licensed Practical Nurse	<u>1,016</u>
Total	<u>10,413</u>

EXAMINATIONS:

During the 1979 - 1980 fiscal year 4 examinations were conducted, two for the professional nurse in July and February and two for the practical nurse in October and April. A total of 4933 candidates were examined, 3833 for professional nursing and 1100 for Licensed Practical nursing. Of these 4162 candidates were taking the test for the first time and 771 were repeating the examination.

The following table indicates the performance of the candidates from all sources.

JULY 1979 - JUNE 1980

REGISTERED NURSE EXAMINATION

	<u>FIRST TIME</u>			<u>REPEATERS</u>		
	<u>PASS</u>	<u>FAIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PASS</u>	<u>FAIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS	2306	366	2672	356	157	513
OUT OF STATE	317	67	384	65	29	94
OUT OF THE COUNTRY	29	37	66	34	70	104

PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINATION

	<u>FIRST TIME</u>			<u>REPEATERS</u>		
	<u>PASS</u>	<u>FAIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PASS</u>	<u>FAIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS	945	17	962	20	19	39
OUT OF STATE	40	1	41	5	5	10
OUT OF THE COUNTRY	32	5	37	2	9	11

THE TABLE BELOW INDICATES THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS:

<u>REGISTERED NURSE</u>	<u>LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE</u>
1976-----3398	1976 -----1250
1977-----3931	1977 -----1212
1978-----4330	1978 -----1230
1979-----4408	1979 -----1254
1980-----3833	1980 -----1100

SOME OF THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED DEALING WITH APPLICANTS FOR STATE BOARDS:

- insufficient records
- incomplete records
- absence of records (Iron Curtain Countries)
- waived applicants
- request to transfer answers from test booklet to answer sheet - denied
- request for additional time to complete examination - denied
- request to have examination read to applicant because of medical emergency - granted
- acceptance of scores from Hawaii on behalf of applicants
- crowded conditions at test sites during major examinations, promoting unfavorable conditions for an examination.

ANNUAL DATA ON REGISTRATION:

ENDORSEMENT:

Licensure of a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse from another state to practice nursing in Massachusetts.

CERTIFIED STATEMENTS:

Licensure by endorsement provides that the Board of Nursing of original licensure provide a certified statement to another Board of Nursing verifying that the applicant for endorsement has been validly licensed in the original state.

APPLICANTS FROM THE NEW YORK EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAM:

Endorsed
Voted

At their June meeting, members of the Board of Registration in Nursing, endorsed a decision that all External Degree candidates applying for endorsement or examination be treated in an equitable manner as all other applicants from approved schools of nursing. It will therefore not be necessary in future reports to list External Degree candidates separately.

REGISTERED NURSES

DATE	EXAMINATION	ENDORSE	RENEWALS	CERTIFIED STATEMENTS	TOTAL
1977	3931	1262	7,119	3774	12,290
1978	4339	1547	80,239	1733	86,076
1979	4218	1623	39,767	4324	40,942
1980	3825	2178	62,344	3730	72,077

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES

DATE	EXAMINATION	ENDORSE	RENEWALS	CERTIFIED STATEMENTS	TOTAL
1977	1212	242	23,232	886	24,647
1978	1245	234	1,386	874	2,854
1979	2021	237	15,106	1064	18,428
1980	1212	281	11,419	732	13,644

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Nursing Fees:

EXAMINATIONS.....	\$30.00
ENDORSEMENT.....	\$50.00
CERTIFICATION.....	\$30.00
CERTIFIED STATEMENTS.....	\$ 2.00
RENEWALS.....	\$ 6.00

(REGISTERED NURSE AND LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE)

ADJUDICATORY:

Under the Massachusetts law, the Board of Registration in Nursing is charged with the obligation to investigate all complaints relative to the 140,000 Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses registered in the Commonwealth. In addition to maintaining safe practice standards the Board must police the profession and is charged with the responsibility of disciplining acts of deceit, malpractice, gross misconduct and those licensees who commit offenses which relate to the practice of nursing.

The need for the Board to act effectively in this regard is critical to insure the integrity of the profession to its members, and more important to preserve the high level of trust and respect the public now affords the nursing profession.

Despite the complex nature of the disciplinary function and the almost total lack of personnel and resources committed by the state to fulfilling this function, the Board of Registration in Nursing has with the increased cooperation of the nursing community, fulfilled their obligations regarding the disciplining of the nursing profession.

In 1978 the Board received 46 complaints. One half of these complaints involved drugs.

In 1979 the Board received 64 complaints. Again, one half of the complaints received involved drugs.

In 1980 a similar pattern emerged.

While the misuse of drugs remains the outstanding complaint, the nature of other complaints has varied greatly. Some of the other complaints include:

- failure to follow doctors orders
- quality of patient care
- unorthodox conduct
- sexual abuse
- verbal abuse
- child abuse
- act of being an imposter
- out of state revocations
- incompetency in practice
- theft of drugs and money
- insanity
- theft of prescription blanks
- using another credit card
- mischarting medications
- billing matters
- possible homicide
- arson - attempt to burn down facility of employment

During the past year* there has been a total of 162 complaints received. Board members reviewed these complaints and took the following disciplinary action relative to the cases.

DISCIPLINARY ACTS SUMMARY 1980

-- Summary Suspension	4
-- Suspension	7
-- Revocations	2
-- Voluntary Surrender	17
-- Orders to Show Cause	15
-- Reprimand	2
-- Probation	1
-- Hold Renewal	10
-- Referred to Attorney General for Prosecution	10

*In the past complaints have been handled on an annual basis. This year they have been compiled on a fiscal year basis for conformity with the rest of the report.

The prediction presented in testimony before the Health Care Committee of an expected increase of between 200 - 300 complaints last year is correct.

Included in this year budget is a request for an additional investigator, (referred to as a "complaint investigator"), and a clerk to be assigned to the investigative department to facilitate the processing of these complaints. Projections from the Board of Registration in Nursing with regard to the adjudication of complaints received will include the creation of a complaint committee (a subset of Board members) who will prescreen complaints prior to Board review in order to expedite the complaint process.

ACME
BOOKBINDING CO., INC.

JUL 6 1990

100 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CHARLESTOWN, MASS.

